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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 45/82 of 13 December 1990, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States", the General Assembly took note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General (A/45/481 and Add.1) and requested the Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States (LAS), within their respective fields of competence, inter alia, to intensify further their cooperation towards the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the strengthening of international peace and security.

2. By the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and LAS and its specialized organizations in order to enhance their capacity to serve the mutual interests of the two organizations in the political, economic, social and cultural fields; and to continue to coordinate the follow-up action to facilitate the implementation of the proposals of a multilateral nature adopted at the Tunis meeting in 1983, and to take appropriate action regarding the multilateral proposals adopted at the Amman meeting in 1985, and at the Geneva meetings in 1988 and 1990.

3. The General Assembly decided that in order to intensify cooperation and for the purpose of review and appraisal of progress as well as to prepare comprehensive periodic reports, a general meeting between the United Nations system and LAS should take place once every two years and inter-agency sectoral meetings should be organized annually on areas of priority and wide importance in the development of the Arab States and the meeting of the sectoral coordinators should be held during 1991, the time and place to be determined by consultations between the United Nations and LAS. The Assembly recommended that a joint meeting between representatives of the organizations of the United Nations system and of LAS and its specialized organizations should be organized in 1992 in order to review the progress in the implementation of the two-year plan of action adopted at the 1990 meeting.

4. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of LAS, to encourage periodic consultations between representatives of the Secretariat of the United Nations and of the General Secretariat of LAS to review and strengthen coordination mechanisms with a view to accelerating implementation and follow-up action of multilateral projects and proposals adopted by the general meeting of the two organizations.

5. The General Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its forty-sixth session a progress report on the implementation of the above resolution.

II. CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION

6. On 1 October 1990, the Secretary-General met with the Acting Secretary-General of LAS, at United Nations Headquarters. They took the opportunity to exchange views on matters of mutual interest, in particular the developments in the Middle East.

7. During the period under review, the secretariats of the United Nations and LAS continued to maintain close contact on matters of mutual concern to the two organizations.

8. A team composed of two Professional staff members from the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship of the Secretariat was dispatched to LAS headquarters at Cairo, pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 45/82, to hold consultations with LAS officials on 29 and 30 April 1991 at the latter's request. The team held a series of meetings with senior officials of the LAS secretariat to discuss ways and means of strengthening and expanding cooperation between the two organizations.

III. FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON PROPOSALS AGREED TO AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

9. It may be recalled that the joint meeting between the United Nations system and LAS was held at Geneva from 18 to 20 July 1990 (see A/45/481/Add.1). The meeting decided to establish the following six sectoral areas for cooperation between the two organizations:

(a) International peace and security;

(b) Food and agriculture;

(c) Labour, trade, industry and environment;

(d) Social affairs;

(e) Education, science, culture and information;

(f) Communications.

10. A summary of reports of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system on their cooperation with LAS during the period under review is given below. This summary includes the activities in the sectoral areas, as well as the follow-up action on proposals adopted at the meeting held at Tunis in 1983 (A/38/299 and Corr.1), at Amman in 1985 (A/40/481/Add.1) and at Geneva in 1988 (A/43/509/Add.1).

A. Department of Political and Security Council Affairs of the Secretariat

11. Since 1 August 1990, the Security Council has been dealing with the crisis in the Gulf and has met on several occasions on the situation in the occupied territories. In addition, the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs has undertaken during 1991 a number of research projects on political and security aspects in the region and it closely followed the Security Council deliberations on the Gulf crisis and the occupied territories.

B. Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat

12. Consultations were carried out during the first seven months of 1990 between the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat and LAS in implementation of paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 44/7 of 17 October 1989 with a view to considering the possibility of holding, in 1991, a seminar on "Development, resources and security: the requirements for confidence-building and crisis prevention in a regional context". In the course of the consultations, LAS proposed to hold the seminar at Doha; the seminar would last for three days and consist of about 22 participants.

C. Department for International Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat

13. In the context of its activities in the projection and perspective studies area, the Department for International Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat has technical expertise in the development, management, updating and revision of econometric models which can be utilized by member countries of LAS for analysing their economic outlook and evaluation of economic policies. These capabilities may be further utilized in broadening the economic horizons of their research by giving more explicit treatment to specific socio-economic development issues. The linkage of various individual country planning models into a comprehensive framework for a regional model could serve as an excellent basis for studying prospective trends and conditions of member countries of LAS.

14. The Department can also provide information on world trade matrices which now cover the 23-year period from 1965 to 1987 for four major commodity groupings for 80 countries/regions. The Department's analysis of global trade patterns treats eight member countries of LAS individually, and others as members of subregional groups. Comprehensive sets of internationally standardized data which measure economic activity and selected social conditions have been made available to LAS and can be made available in the future.

15. The Population Division of the Department cooperates with LAS in a number of ways. The biennial estimates and projections of population size and other

key demographic parameters produced by the Department are routinely made available to the Population Research and Study Unit of LAS. In addition, population analyses and studies in such areas as fertility, urbanization, mortality, international migration and population policy are also exchanged with the Unit. Case studies reviewing national population experience have been carried out for Egypt, Kuwait, Morocco and Tunisia. A recent exchange of visits of technical staff has greatly facilitated communication between researchers of both organizations.

D. Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat

16. The Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat has been implementing a programme of technical cooperation activities in Arab States. In 1990, the expenditure on technical cooperation projects implemented by the Department in member countries of LAS amounted to almost $18 million.

1. Public administration and finance

17. The Department of Technical Cooperation for Development has assisted LAS in the execution of regional project RAB/86/047 on Administrative Development of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States. This $2.4 million project involved cost-sharing financing mobilized from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) ($1.5 million), from the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND) ($600,000) and also from LAS. The project aims at strengthening the administrative capacity of the secretariat by developing its overall organizational structures.

18. Implementation of project activities began prior to the move of the secretariat to Cairo and was intensively activated when implementation of the subcontract for consultancies and training started on 1 April 1991. A new subcontract for a management information system is expected to be finalized soon, and its implementation will start within the coming few months. Launched in 1988, this project will be completed in 1992.

2. Population

19. The Department executed the project entitled "Assistance to the Population Research and Training Unit within the LAS General Secretariat". Funded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) ($730,450), the three-year project is scheduled for completion in 1991. The project will enable the LAS Population Research and Training Unit to become a permanent institution capable of responding to the needs of the various bodies of LAS for population data collection, research and study.

3. Statistics

20. The Department, with support from the United Nations Statistical Office, has been backstopping a major project entitled "Pan-Arab Project for Child Development" (PAPCHILD) in close collaboration with LAS. Launched in 1988, this ongoing project is funded by AGFUND, UNFPA, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), LAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Department for Technical Cooperation and Development. The objective of PAPCHILD is to provide reliable information for formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating maternal and child care, health and developmental policies and programmes in a cost-effective manner.

E. United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations

21. The United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations has undertaken during the last two years a series of missions and activities in various Arab States. Among these were an advisory mission to Tunisia on information systems for subcontracting and industrial investments, several missions to Morocco for establishing an export-processing zone regime and an offshore banking facilities system. A mission was sent to Jordan, at the request of the Arab Cooperation Council (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Yemen), to establish a mechanism for the settlement of disputes; and to Egypt for reorganizing and promoting the financial market as well as for training responsible persons in the field. Study tours were also organized by the Centre for senior staff members of the Egyptian Financial Market Authority.

22. At a regional level, the Centre provided a feasibility study on the creation of the Mediterranean Development Bank with legal, economic and financial issues to be taken into account in setting it up. Arab regional training activities, which were to take place at Baghdad, were interrupted owing to the situation prevailing in the region. A regional workshop on "Negotiating with transnational banks" was among the activities planned.

23. Every year, the Centre participates in regional workshops organized by the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation (IAIGC - Kuwait) on project-financing. Other joint activities already planned were interrupted while some other areas of cooperation were identified for implementation in the near future.

24. The joint Centre on Transnational Corporations/ESCWA unit produced a report of the pan-Arab intergovernmental meeting on United Nations efforts towards international harmonization of accounting and reporting by transnational corporations. In 1990, the same joint unit, in cooperation with the joint Centre on Transnational Corporations/ECE unit, prepared a draft of the first part of a technical study on Arab petrochemicals and rising protectionism in the European Community.

F. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

25. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has continued to undertake activities of direct interest to LAS and its member countries. These include preparation of an analytical compendium of Arab multinational and joint ventures; a handbook of Arab private trading enterprises; and a compendium reviewing recent developments in subregional and regional organizations, as well as arrangements of countries in the Arab region. UNCTAD is also actively engaged in developing technical cooperation in the trade sector in the Arab region.

26. With regard to issues related to the economy of the occupied Palestinian territory, the UNCTAD secretariat has continued work on implementing its intersectoral project on prospects for sustained economic and social development in this territory. The contribution received by UNCTAD from the Arab Organization for Industrial Development and Mining has been allocated to cover the costs of preparing specific studies on the industrial sector of the occupied Palestinian territory. Consultations are under way with the General Directorate for Economic Affairs of LAS regarding its pledge also to contribute to the cost of the intersectoral study.

27. In the area of shipping, ports and multimodal transport, UNCTAD continues to cooperate with, and provide technical assistance to, individual member States as well as to integration groupings within LAS. Consultations and exchanges of information have taken place on a regular basis between UNCTAD and the Port Management Association of North Africa concerning joint activities and the implementation of measures for furthering the role of ports in the development of the subregion. Current and future technical assistance projects include a port project in Oman and a shipping project in Libya. On a regular basis, UNCTAD is cooperating on a large scale with Arab countries in the context of its TRAINMAR programme, which is aimed at improving the internal capacity of developing countries to conduct maritime management training. It enables training centres to adopt a sound training methodology and to cooperate in sharing inputs and outputs. Such centres are assisted directly by the UNCTAD Shipping Division in charge of the programme.

28. There are TRAINMAR centres in five Arab States, namely, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates. The UNCTAD secretariat works with them in improving their skills, facilitating their cooperation and conducting their training.

29. As for the UNCTAD work programme on financial flows of OPEC, direct contact has been maintained with Arab Governments and institutions, some of which are specialized agencies of LAS, e.g. the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa.

G. United Nations Development Programme

30. Cooperation between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and LAS covers both direct support to LAS, and active collaboration of LAS and its specialized agencies in projects on the priority issues facing the Arab region, namely, food security, technology transfer and human resources development. Examples of this cooperation are given below.

1. Direct support

31. UNDP contributes $1.5 million, with cost-sharing of $600,000 by AGFUND (see para. 17 above) to finance regional project RAB/86/047 on "Administrative development of the General Secretariat of LAS".

32. UNDP contributes $400,000 to another project (ARIS-NET - RAB/86/010) which is nearly completed and which supports the establishment of an Arab Regional Information System Network. The final activity in this project is a Euro-Arab seminar on information systems to be held late in 1991. This UNESCO-executed project builds on the establishment of the Arab League Documentation Centre (ALDOC) under RAB/79/030, with UNDP inputs of $2.9 million.

2. Collaboration in development activities

33. The Arab Organization of Agricultural Development (AOAD) is executing two UNDP projects: RAB/89/027 on "Strengthening research management in the Arab countries", to which UNDP contributes $250,000; and RAB/89/024 on "Development of oilseed crops", to which UNDP contributes $1.7 million. The first is helping to upgrade national capacities in agricultural research management, and the second will increase the production and productivity of oilseed crops by training national professionals and analysing farm products.

34. The Arab Telecommunications Union is a member of the Steering Committee of project RAB/89/001 on "Modern Arab telecommunication development", to which UNDP contributes $1.4 million. The project is assisting Arab telecommunication administrations in establishing Arab regional data communication networks, and in creating a mechanism of collaboration. It seeks to promote self-reliance in telecommunication training activities through network arrangements.

35. The Arab Maritime Transport Academy (AMTA) is implementing project RAB/88/010 on "Regional training at AMTA headquarters at Sharah", United Arab Emirates, to which UNDP contributes $200,000. The project is establishing a network of mutually supportive Arab training institutions, and developing AMTA as a regional resource centre.

36. The Arab Labour Organization (ALO) is collaborating closely with UNDP in the ILO-executed project RAB/90/017, entitled "Arab Programme for Labour

Administration", to which UNDP contributes $657,000 and ILO $150,000. It will assist in adapting the legal and institutional structure of labour administration systems to the emerging needs of concerned countries.

37. The Arab Industrial Development Organization (AIDO) is cooperating actively in project RAB/87/013, executed by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), on the "Establishment of engineering infrastructure in the ESCWA region". UNDP is providing $260,000 for the project, and AIDO is one of the four agencies providing additional funds of $410,000.

38. The Arab Civil Aviation Council (ACAC) collaborated in the implementation of projects RAB/84/001 and RAB/86/056 for which UNDP gave assistance in the amount of $1.3 billion to the Civil Aviation College at Doha; the governmental contribution to the projects was $388,825. Both projects have helped to meet the needs of participating Governments and civil aviation operators of the States for technical civil aviation personnel.

3. Women in development

39. LAS and ESCWA co-sponsored the UNDP pan-Arab conference on "Social and economic challenges of the 1990s: Arab women's contribution to development", which was convened at Cairo in May 1990.

H. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

40. Consultations and contacts continue at all levels between the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the LAS secretariat. Exchanges of visits by senior officials from the LAS secretariat and UNRWA included a visit made to the LAS secretariat at Tunis by the Commissioner-General on 9 December 1990. The current Commissioner-General met on 12 May 1991 at Cairo with the Acting Secretary-General of LAS, and with the new Secretary-General on 15 May 1991. It was agreed that more direct contact should take place and that a memorandum of understanding between LAS and UNRWA would be concluded to enhance and further strengthen the excellent cooperation existing between them. The Commissioner-General and other UNRWA officials also maintain regular contact with the Permanent Observers of LAS in Vienna and New York.

41. Arab States contributed generously to the UNRWA special emergency programmes at Gaza and the West Bank. LAS continued its strong support of UNRWA programmes and made every effort to urge its members to increase their contributions to UNRWA.

42. UNRWA maintained close contact with LAS member States, particularly the Arab host Governments of Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. These Governments were also members of the UNRWA advisory commission.

I. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

43. In order to increase cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and LAS, the second coordination meeting was held at Tunis in July 1990.

44. The Centre participated in the meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and LAS and its specialized organizations, held at Geneva from 18 to 20 July 1990. The meeting recommended that the Centre should cooperate with LAS in:

(a) Convening a regional conference of Arab States to study the nature of the exchange of information and experience with regard to national shelter strategies and to monitor the "Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000";

(b) Seminars organized by the Council of Arab Ministers for Housing;

(c) Developing questionnaires for obtaining information and statistics relating to development of the housing sector in Arab States;

(d) Utilizing training programmes and sessions organized by the Centre. It was further recommended that the two sides should exchange the publications and periodicals which they issued and, whenever possible, that the Centre should translate its documents and publications into Arabic.

45. Dissemination of information on human settlement issues is being undertaken by regular mailing of UNCHS (Habitat) publications on different aspects of human settlements to the General Secretariat of LAS from the UNCHS (Habitat) regional information office at Amman. News features on activities in States members of LAS were included in the December 1989 and April 1990 issues of "UNCHS Habitat News".

J. Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator

46. During the period under review, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) continued to keep LAS informed of the relief assistance provided to its member States. In this respect, UNDRO was involved in providing emergency assistance to Lebanon, Somalia and Sudan. In 1990, two information meetings were organized at Geneva to mobilize relief assistance to Lebanon.

47. UNDRO also coordinated international aid to persons displaced following the Iraq/Kuwait crisis, and the Office cooperated closely with, and provided assistance to, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic. Appeals were also launched on behalf of Egypt and Yemen to provide assistance to their nationals returning home.

48. UNDRO continued to cooperate with and provide technical assistance to several Arab countries in the field of disaster preparedness and prevention.

Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia are actively participating in the "Cooperative Project for Seismic Risk Reduction in the Mediterranean Region" (SEISMED) which aims at reducing the effects of earthquakes in countries of the Mediterranean region.

49. Projects to strengthen national capacities for dealing with matters related to disasters were implemented, and others are ongoing or planned, in the following Arab countries: Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia. An international conference on emergencies and disaster prevention was organized and held at Cairo in September 1990 in which many countries, organizations and experts participated.

K. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

50. The signing of a specific agreement between LAS and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), equivalent to the agreements already signed between the League and other United Nations agencies, is being actively and favourably considered. Major decisions at such a high level have been somewhat delayed, however, owing to the transfer of the League's headquarters to Cairo and the appointment of the new Secretary-General. In the meantime, UNHCR, in particular its regional office at Cairo, has followed closely operational relations in all areas of common concern both at headquarters as well as in the field.

L. International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

51. During 1990, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) carried out the following activities with member countries of LAS:

(a) In order to adapt the multi-media modular training package to the programme on "Women and New and Renewable Sources of Energy", which was prepared by INSTRAW in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation's International Centre for Advanced Technical and Vocational Training, to national and local contexts, the Institute organized a "National Training Seminar on Women and New and Renewable Sources of Energy" (NRSE) at Cairo, from 24 to 28 June 1990. UNDP, the National Research Centre of Egypt and the Scientific Association of Arab Women in Egypt collaborated in organizing this seminar;

(b) A regional training workshop on "Women and Renewable Energy Sources" was held at Tripoli, from 1 to 8 December 1990, for Arab African countries. It was organized by the International Energy Foundation which translated the modules into the Arabic language at no cost to INSTRAW, in collaboration with the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy (ARCSE), INSTRAW, UNDP and the General Union of Women Societies.

52. Participants in the workshop received a copy of the modules in the Arabic language, and made presentations on the following themes: "Solar Thermal Energy Conversion", "Solar Electric Energy Conversion", "Wind Energy Conversion Systems", "Desalination Using NRSE", "Biogas Production and Applications", "Women and Energy - The Libyan Experience", "Wood and Improved Stoves: The Tunisian Experience" and "World-wide Experience in NRSE Projects". This workshop enabled participants to learn more of new aspects in the field of NRSE and of women's involvement therein.

M. World Food Programme

53. The World Food Programme (WFP) is providing food aid to 12 member countries of LAS. This assistance is being used to support both development programmes and emergency operations. There are 40 development projects which are currently operational in 12 countries, the total cost of which is $567.5 million. WFP aid is intended mainly for the poorest segments of the rural population.

54. Food assistance is being given to support the following types of development projects:

(a) Feeding programmes: These include projects whereby children from the poorest areas receive food with a view to improving their nutrition and health and children are attracted to attend school on a regular basis. Such types of feeding projects are being implemented in several countries, including Morocco, the Sudan, Somalia and Yemen. In other projects, pregnant and nursing mothers from poor rural areas are provided with rations as an incentive to attract them to maternal and child-care health centres, where they can receive regular medical check-ups and treatment;

(b) Food-for-work projects serve mainly to support agricultural development. Under these projects, rations are given as part-payment of wages to workers engaged in land-development activities, afforestation and soil-erosion control.

55. WFP is making a major contribution to supporting emergency and refugee relief operations. At present, seven LAS member countries receive assistance worth $34 million. The major recipients are Somalia and the Sudan. This assistance is being given to the people affected by natural or other disasters. WFP is also providing food assistance to the amount of $57.6 million, in response to humanitarian needs created by the Gulf war.

N. International Labour Organisation

56. Twenty-six technical cooperation projects, including 12 that became operational during 1989, were implemented in the fields of employment promotion, vocational training, vocational rehabilitation, cooperative development, labour administration, social security, small enterprise development, handicraft development and hotels and tourism. More than 20 missions were undertaken by regional advisers in connection with the implementation of these projects.

57. The Regional Office for the Arab States offered fellowships and other financial assistance to officials from Arab countries for attending five symposiums, seminars and round tables during 1990.

58. The Ministry of Labour of the Government of Jordan, in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation's Labour and Population Policy Team, organized an intercountry seminar on regional cooperation in population, human resources and development planning, at Amman from 8 to 11 July 1990.

59. The seminar was attended by representatives from Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Egypt and Oman. Also, a number of regional organizations participated, including the Council for Arab Economic Unity, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Regional Office), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNDP and ILO.

1. Vocational training and rehabilitation

60. Five ILO vocational training projects assisted member States in establishing or strengthening training programmes for women, supervisory training and training policies, and work began on the regional skill development programme for Arab countries.

61. The ILO/UNDP/AFESD regional "Skill-development Programme for Arab Countries" became fully operational. A similar project in Tunisia contributed to strengthening and implementing reorganization of the Office de la Formation Professionnelle et de l'Emploi. The regional services have been reoriented and reorganized on a sectoral and regional basis. In the Sudan, a project was initiated for training in income-generating skills. It will help to alleviate rural unemployment and underemployment in the region of Kordofan.

62. The ILO/UNDP/AGFUND regional programme on vocational rehabilitation, entitled "Development of Rehabilitation Staff Training Capacities in Arab Countries", was officially approved and the necessary arrangements were made for executing it.

2. Labour administration

63. The Regional Arab Centre for Labour Administration (RACLA) organized a training course on employment services, and a seminar on labour inspection in which more than 40 officials from labour ministries as well as workers' and employers' representatives participated. RACLA also provided technical advisory services and fellowship programmes in such areas as labour standards, occupational safety and health, labour administration and employment services.

3. Cooperation between the ILO Information and Statistics Department and LAS

64. The ILO library sends subsets of its LABORDOC database to the Arab League Documentation Centre at six-month intervals.

65. The occupational classification component of a project entitled "Standard National Occupational Classification, Job Evaluation and Salary Administration Systems", financed by the International Development Association (IDA), was completed. A project to develop a labour-information system in Egypt, financed by UNDP, has recently started for a period of three years.

4. Regional activities

66. The workshop was designed to promote awareness of the importance and role of drug rehabilitation programmes among the officials of drug control agencies and to formulate guidelines and recommendations for future action at the national level in order to reduce recidivism and facilitate social reintegration. An interregional seminar for the Arab countries on cooperative development was also organized jointly with the Arab Cooperative Federation and the General Union of Cooperatives in Iraq.

67. The Regional Office was represented at all sessions of the Governing Body of the Arab Labour Organization (ALO) and at the Arab Labour Conference. The Fourth Annual Meeting on ILO/ALO Cooperation reviewed the joint activities carried out during the intervening period.

O. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

68. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) carried out several regional studies and prepared technical papers relevant to the work of LAS, among which are: A Balanced Diet - A Way to Good Nutrition; Agricultural Credit Curricula Development at University Level; Integration of Agricultural Credit with Supporting Marketing, Input Supply, Extension and Insurance Services; Selected Issues in Agricultural Policy Analysis; Pest Control in Protected Vegetable Cultivation; Development of Seed Production of Major Crops; and Diseases Transmissible between Animals and Men.

1. Regional seminars, workshops and technical meetings

69. Collaboration between FAO and LAS continued in jointly organized regional seminars and workshops, and in reciprocal participation in high-level and other technical meetings. Invitations to participate in the FAO statutory bodies were extended to the LAS subsidiary bodies.

2. Technical cooperation

70. FAO cooperation with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) and AFESD continued as regards the rehabilitation of agricultural statistics in the Sudan. The FAO contribution included providing three consultants in agricultural statistics, livestock statistics and data processing. FAO participated in preparing the activity programme of the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS). The FAO regional fishery body - the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM) - is playing a major role in providing technical assistance and promoting cooperation among member countries of LAS. FAO continued to cooperate with AOAD in helping the Regional Centre on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Near East (CARDNE) to collaborate with the Centre and to carry out its activities. FAO has continued its cooperation with the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA), which is now self-supporting. As in the past, the two secretariats exchanged statistical information.

3. Investment

71. During the period from April 1990 to March 1991, four agricultural investment projects in LAS member countries, prepared with the assistance of the FAO Investment Centre, were approved for financing by multilateral lending institutions. The total investments were estimated at $110.8 million, and the projects were financed by the World Bank, IFAD and bilateral sources. During the same period, the FAO Investment Centre was also involved in work on a further 12 projects in LAS countries for eventual financing by the international community. Representatives of the Centre visited six ongoing UNDP/FAO technical assistance projects to investigate possibilities for investment follow-up.

P. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

72. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) continues to strengthen its cooperation with LAS in the following areas.

1. Education

73. Cooperation between LAS and UNESCO is carried out mainly through the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) and the United Nations Education Bureau for the Arab States (UNEDBAS). The following are the main joint activities in 1991:

(a) ALECSO was deeply involved in the preparatory work for the Ministry of Education of the Arab States (MINEDARAB V), which was scheduled to be carried out at Cairo in January 1991 but was postponed due to the war in the Gulf;

(b) ALECSO was invited to participate in organizing a regional workshop on new concepts and methods in educational planning, scheduled for May 1991;

(c) UNEDBAS is collaborating with ALECSO in the project of revising the "Strategy of Arab Education";

(d) UNEDBAS and ALECSO are jointly organizing a regional training workshop for literacy personnel, to be convened at Sheidin in the Sudan during 1991.

2. Science

74. UNESCO, through its Regional Office for Science and Technology for the Arab States (ROSTAS), cooperates mainly with the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) and ALECSO.

75. Thus ROSTAS is cooperating with ACSAD and ALECSO in various fields of natural resources management. In this regard, UNESCO, as a member of the Joint Permanent Committee of the ALECSO Green Belt Project for North Africa, participated in its last session held at Tunis in January 1991.

76. ROSTAS organized, jointly with ALECSO and with the cooperation of ACSAD, a subregional symposium entitled "Efficient water use and conservation is a must for survival" in March 1991 at Tunis.

77. Within the framework of developing of environmental education programmes, UNESCO recently prepared a project document entitled "Environmental Engineering Education and Management", with a view to creating a mechanism for the coordination, linkage and development of educational and research activities among its member States of the Arab and European regions.

78. In the course of its activities to reduce earthquake risk in the Arab region, UNESCO has provided technical backstopping for the establishment of seismological observatory networks in four Arab countries. It has also continued the training of professionals under the Programme for Assessment and Mitigation of Earthquake Risk in the Arab Region (PAMERAR). This programme is funded by AFESD.

79. ALECSO invited UNESCO to contribute to and participate in the Conference of Arab Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research, held at Benghazi, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in April 1991. Under the UNESCO programme on science and technology for development, UNESCO/ROSTAS is co-sponsoring the ALECSO study for preparing the revised, updated and complete technical document on the present status of biotechnological activities in five Arab countries.

3. Culture

80. UNESCO has continued to cooperate closely with ALECSO in cultural matters. The ALECSO project entitled "The Cultural Dimension of the Development in the Arab World" is considered an important contribution to the "World Decade for Cultural Development". The Intersectoral Committee for the Cultural Development Decade has approved, under the UNESCO participation programme for 1990-1991, seven projects submitted by Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Oman and Yemen.

Q. World Health Organization

81. During the period under review, the World Health Organization (WHO) continued to update its strategy for health development in the Arab world, in the context of its national "Health for All by the Year 2000" strategies. Evaluation of the "Health for All" strategy by all countries will take place during 1991.

1. AIDS

82. WHO and the Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) have been deeply involved in preparing the Arab strategy for prevention and control of the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). The Regional Office, considering the importance of blood transfusions, has organized a "Regional Workshop on Immunodeficiency Virus Blood Safety", in which all Arab countries of the region have participated. WHO has allocated more than $4 million to support national and regional AIDS control activities in Arab countries for 1990, and a similar amount for 1991.

2. Essential drugs

83. WHO is collaborating with LAS member States in the formulation of an Arab drug policy; the coordination and development of an Arab drug industry; the compilation of an Arab pharmacopoea; and the establishment of a network of collaborating quality-control laboratories as well as an Arab drug research centre.

3. Blood transfusions

84. In line with EMRO policy, AGFUND and WHO signed an agreement to establish a project for the development of blood transfusion services in 11 countries of the eastern Mediterranean region. The project's aim is to make safe blood and blood derivatives available to the needy population.

4. Protection from radiation

85. EMRO is already collaborating with some Arab countries, namely, Egypt, Yemen, Kuwait and the Syrian Arab Republic, in order to provide film badge services and TLD capsules for monitoring and controlling radiation protection in medical fields.

5. Environmental health activities

86. The Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA) at Amman has, in collaboration with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada, established a water, sanitation and environmental health information network called CEHANET. CEHANET has made contacts with the Arab League Documentation Centre (ALDOC), especially for Arabized information tools. CEHANET has developed an Arabic thesaurus of water supply and sanitation. In addition, through a major intercountry water-supply and sanitation programme in support of decade activities, which is assisted by AGFUND, substantial support in the areas of promotion, manpower development and women's involvement, among others, has been provided to 18 Arab States.

87. As part of the "Healthy Cities Action", projects and programmes for UNDP funding have been prepared in order to establish linkages between Arab cities.

R. World Bank

88. The World Bank continues to support economic and social programmes in the LAS member States through its lending and selected activities. In 1990, the Bank committed $978.1 million to development programmes in these countries. This assistance was concentrated on the priority areas of agriculture, education, energy, health, industry and transport.

89. Following the onset of the Gulf crisis, the Bank took prompt action to assist affected countries, recognizing that, without urgent additional external assistance, development programmes in many of these countries would otherwise be derailed and further deterioration of economic conditions would follow from delayed or inadequate policy responses. From its initial country assessments, the Bank agreed on a number of measures encompassing the following main areas:

(a) Assistance in designing appropriate policy responses;

(b) Accelerated disbursements from existing loans and credits;

(c) Aid coordination and assistance in mobilizing appropriate financial packages, including debt and debt-service relief.

90. Under this proposed Gulf assistance programme, the Bank has adapted the Social Fund Programme in Egypt, already under preparation at the outset of the crisis, to help in protecting vulnerable groups from the negative social impact of economic reform programmes and also to facilitate the economic integration of Egyptian returnees from Iraq and Kuwait. The Social Fund project was recently appraised.

91. In the case of Jordan, the proposed additional assistance would include an emergency recovery loan to assist the Government in meeting the incremental demand for social and infrastructural services and essential goods and in providing incremental employment opportunities for the massive influx of returning workers. While the Bank's assistance would account for only a relatively small part of Jordan's financial requirement, the Bank would seek to mobilize other sources of assistance on concessional terms.

92. The Programme would also include additional assistance to Morocco directed mainly to targeted investments in the social sectors, in particular, employment and nutrition services. The Bank is exploring with the Government of the Republic of Yemen options for emergency assistance to cope with the exacerbating problems of workers' reduced remittances and income losses due to the return of migrants.

S. International Monetary Fund

93. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) continues to be actively involved in the formulation and implementation of economic and financial policies in LAS member countries. In 1990, there were 18 staff visits to hold periodic consultations and to discuss adjustment policies in support of financial assistance from the Fund. Technical and financial assistance to common members and other regional organizations, such as the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), had continued to be high. The outstanding use of Fund resources by common members covered by the Middle East Department stood at about $1.2 billion in 1990. Technical assistance by the Fund, which covered a broad range of activities including the banking sector, financial sector reforms, budgetary policy and management, external sector and statistics, amounted to 11 man-years in 1990. By actively participating in the meetings of regional organizations and affiliates such as the Islamic Development Bank and the Arab Central Banks, the Middle East Department of the Fund has furthered cooperation among LAS members and IMF.

94. The Africa Department continues to be actively involved in assisting the six LAS member countries (Algeria, Djibouti, Mauritania, Morocco, Somalia and Tunisia) that are covered by the Department in the elaboration and implementation of their economic and financial policies. In 1990, there were 15 visits to these countries for regular consultations and discussions of policies under programmes supported by Fund resources. The outstanding use of Fund resources by the six LAS members covered by the Africa Department amounted to 1.3 billion special drawing rights at the end of 1990. Moreover, the Fund provides technical assistance in a number of areas, including the banking sector, financial sector reform, budgetary policy-making and statistics. Visits by non-resident experts amounted to one man-year in 1990. In addition, there were three resident experts during the year.

T. Universal Postal Union

95. There is a continuing exchange of information and contacts between the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and the Arab Postal Union (APU) and LAS as, for example, at meetings of their respective organs (the Executive Councils of UPU and APU and the UPU Consultative Council for Postal Studies).

96. Under the agreement on cooperation concluded between UPU and APU in January 1987, a seminar for chairmen and directors-general of posts was held at Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in December 1987. Following the seminar, APU conducted a survey in Arab countries to identify priority areas and sectors of activity needing external support. Those priorities have been defined and will serve as a basis for technical cooperation programmes and projects for Arab countries in the early 1990s. UPU and APU have agreed to conduct annual postal staff-training activities and to grant fellowships to those attending the various courses and programmes of study.

97. UPU is prepared to provide administrative and educational assistance to the Arab Postal Faculty at Damascus for the proposed restructuring of the faculty.

U. International Maritime Organization

98. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) undertook the following activities during 1990 in cooperation with LAS member countries.

1. National activities

Algeria

99. One fellowship for advanced training at the World Maritime University in maritime safety administration was provided. Training continued in the management of ship operations and on the job. Training in the management of

ship operations continued (by correspondence) for two officials of the Merchant Marine Department. One fellowship has also been provided for a teacher from the Institut Supérieur d'Etude Maritime at Bou-Ismail, Algeria, to attend a two-week training programme on survival at sea. Two Algerian teachers (one at Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and the other at Alexandria, Egypt) were trained to conduct the course on Marpol 73/78-Annex I and the examinations course, respectively.

100. In 1990, the "Maritime Safety" project provided for training equipment and technical publications. Under the project entitled "Specialized training of seafarers and technical shore-based personnel" training aids and equipment were provided to the above-mentioned Institut Supérieur for conducting IMO model courses.

Yemen

101. The Government of the Republic of Yemen is expanding and modernizing the port of Aden. In order to complement the plan, UNDP approved a project in 1989 for preparing a plan of action to meet the consultancy and training requirements of the Yemen Ports Authority with special emphasis on the operation and maintenance of new facilities.

102. In 1989, a team of IMO port consultants prepared the plan of action which was approved by the Government. At the Government's request, IMO confirmed its readiness to implement the plan of action and a project document has been prepared. Implementation of the project was due to begin in 1990 in cooperation with UNCTAD but has been delayed.

103. The Government and sponsors of the "Maritime Training" project supplied training aids and equipment. A staff-training programme was initiated, including IMO model courses for the training of trainers and maritime personnel. In conjunction with the Government, IMO has been able to secure additional bilateral and regional resources for equipment and conducting further training courses.

104. The training of two maritime teachers at the World Maritime University was completed in December 1990. One official from the Yemen Ports Authority completed a two-month training course in maritime law and transport at the Arab Maritime Transport Academy in Alexandria, Egypt.

Morocco

105. Under the government-executed "Training of Trainers" project, the Moroccan Government and UNDP awarded IMO a subcontract to implement the IMO model course on "Maritime Search and Rescue", administered at the Institut Supérieur d'Etude Maritime, a branch of the World Maritime University. The course was conducted on a regional basis with participants from Tunisia.

Somalia

106. Under the "Maritime Training" project, two students joined the World Maritime University to attend master-of-science degree courses in general maritime administration and technical management of shipping companies. They graduated in December 1990.

107. Training continued for a Somali lawyer enrolled in the inaugural class of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute in Malta. He graduated in June 1990.

2. Regional training at the Arab Maritime Transport Academy

108. The Arab Maritime Transport Academy (AMTA) at Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, has now become a branch of the Arab Maritime Transport Academy, which is situated at Alexandria, Egypt, following a decision of the Arab Ministers for Transport and Communications during a meeting held on 8 November 1989. The transfer of training equipment from Sharjah to Alexandria is now under consideration.

109. Project activities in 1990 included a visit to the Academy by the project's principal consultant to finalize work plans, identify equipment requirements and make preparations for regional training activities. The IMO model courses on "Oil tanker familiarization" and "Planned fleet maintenance and hull protection" were held on a regional basis. Training of an academy lecturer at the IMO International Maritime Law Institute at Malta was completed successfully, and two staff members who had been granted fellowships under the project were awarded master's degrees by the University of Wales College at Cardiff, United Kingdom.

3. Assistance to the Association of African Maritime Training Institutes

110. The project promotes horizontal cooperation in maritime training among the following Arab States: Algeria, Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Somalia and Tunisia.

111. Project activities carried out in 1990 included: finalization of the draft common guidelines on a harmonized system of educational examination and certification; fact-finding visits to the Association of African Maritime Training Institutes (AAMTI) to assess development needs and the potential for technical cooperation among developing countries, as well as to establish a common database system on a regional basis of IMO model courses; a seminar held at Alexandria, Egypt, for directors of AAMTI institutes on the "Integration of women in the maritime sector"; the sixth directors' meeting at Alexandria, Egypt, in March 1990; and publishing the compendium on member institutes in English and French.

V. World Intellectual Property Organization

112. Under funds made available by UNDP, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) organized:

(a) A national seminar on the "Role of patents in technological development", in cooperation with the National Institute for Standardization and Industrial Property, at Tunis in May 1990;

(b) A regional workshop on "The patent, a factor of industrial integration", in cooperation with the Algerian Institute for Standardization and Industrial Property, at Algiers in June 1990;

(c) A regional seminar on the "Role of industrial property in the promotion of trade and industry in the Arab countries", in cooperation with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, at Amman in July 1990.

W. International Fund for Agricultural Development

113. In 1990, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) approved five new projects for the Arab countries, four under the Fund's regular programme and one under its special programme for sub-Saharan African countries. The projects approved under the regular programme were: the "Artisanal Fisheries Pilot Development" project in Algeria ($11.5 million); "Livestock and Pasture Development" in the eastern region of Morocco ($14 million); "Southern Roseires Agricultural Development" project in the Sudan ($10.3 million); and "Fourth Fisheries Development" project in Yemen ($6.5 million). The Executive Board, under the IFAD special programme for sub-Saharan Africa, also approved the project entitled "Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme Phase II" in Mauritania ($11 million and a $0.3 million grant).

114. IFAD assistance to the region during the period from 1978 to 1990, under both the regular programme and the special programme for sub-Saharan African countries, amounted to approximately $488 million, financing 49 projects in 12 Arab countries. The IFAD investment helped to mobilize an additional $853 million from other external donors and $1,351 million from recipient countries.

115. During 1990, the IFAD Executive Board approved two technical-assistance grants to the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD). The grants will finance work for the Date Palm Research and Development Network ($1 million) and the Camel Applied Research and Development Network ($1.5 million).

X. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

116. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has continued to cooperate with LAS and the competent Arab regional organizations dealing with industrial activities, namely, the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO), the Arab Railway Union (ARU), the Arab Union for Cement and Building Materials (AUCBM), the Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, the Arab Federation of Food Industries and the Arab Iron and Steel Union (AISU).

117. In close cooperation with AIDMO, a "Special Programme for the Industrial Development of Arab Countries" has been drawn up. It is intended mainly to meet the urgent needs of the Arab least developed countries, namely, the Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti and Yemen, as well as to initiate and implement industrial projects at the regional and subregional levels.

118. In 1990, the specific joint activities of UNIDO and AIDMO focused on the development of project proposals for various workshops, two of which have been approved for implementation.

119. UNIDO participated actively in the deliberations of the AIDMO Ministerial Council meetings at Cairo in June 1990 and contributed to the plans elaborated for the future industrial development of the area. UNIDO was also involved in the preparation of, and participated in, the meeting on the "Development of Industrial Cooperation among Member Countries of the Arab Maghreb Union", held at Tunis in October 1990.

120. UNIDO has contributed to the Sixth Seminar of Executive Directors of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab Countries, which was organized in cooperation with LAS and regional organizations at Cairo in January 1990.

Y. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

121. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) has continued to cooperate with LAS member States, both contracting parties to the Agreement or applying the GATT principles on a de facto basis, by providing technical assistance with a view to facilitating their more effective participation in the GATT trading system. Assistance has also been provided to those members of LAS which participate in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

122. In addition, GATT will continue to provide training facilities in its commercial policy courses to officials from LAS member countries.